

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said composition includes a corticosteroid.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 including the steps of separately administering orally a corticosteroid.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for treating a collagen related autoimmune rheumatoid arthritis which comprises orally administering an effective amount of a protein which has been stabilized so as to transgress the gastrointestinal tract, said protein being the conjugate, crosslinked, or crystalline adduct of ~~a member selected from the group consisting of alpha1-antitrypsin, secretory leucocyte protease inhibitor, and alpha2-macroglobulin~~ so as to inhibit collagenase and tumor necrosis factor alpha activity.

**Remarks**